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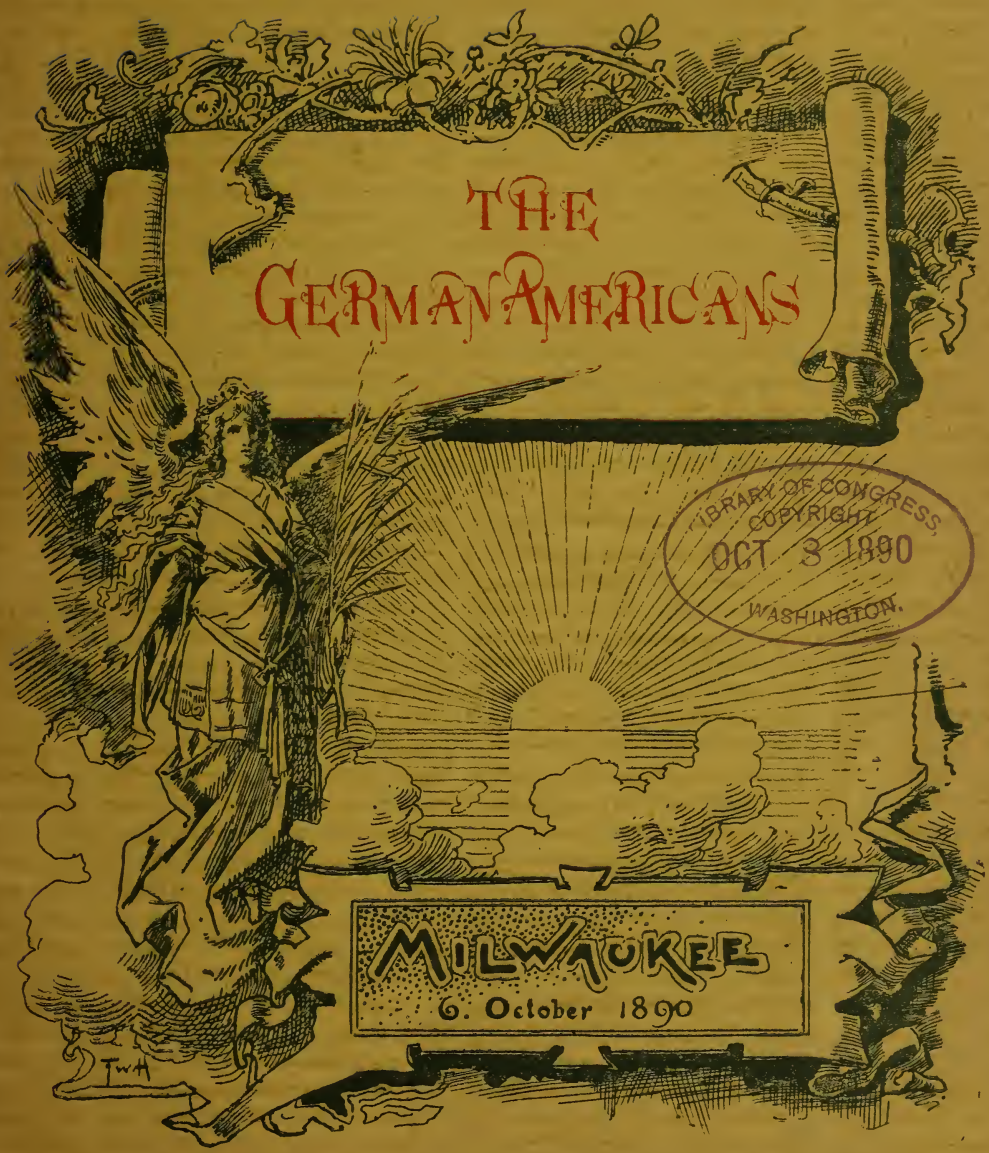

HAKE & STIRN, PRTG. CO., MILWAUKEE.

THE

GERMAN-AMERICAN.

by GEO. MEYER.

DEDICATED TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY,

HELD IN

MILWAUKEE, OCT. 6th, 1890.

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MOTTO: "We are not Strangers in this Land".

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The German-American Day is celebrated in commemoration of the part German-Americans have taken in the developments of this our glorious country. This part of our country's history is but little known. To propagate the knowledge thereof was the incentive for this publication. May it fullfill its mission!

The Committee for the celebration of the German-American Day in Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 6 1890.

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Christoph Bach.	Eugen Luening.
Alvin Kletzsch.	Chas. Mayer.

PREFACE.

"We are not strangers in this Land." I have chosen these words to be the motto of this little pamphlet, the object of which is to give a brief sketch of the history and importance of the Germans in the United States.

The task has been fraught with many difficulties, as the space alloted is very small in proportion to the wealth of material presented for consideration on this subject. The Germans have played a significant part in the annals of this country, within the last two centuries, and it affords the author a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction, that an opportunity is offered to accumulate and set forth their many noble achievements, both in times of peace and war;—achievements on which every citizen of German extraction may look back whit pride and reverence.

Unfortunately, too little self-esteem is felt upon this score. To their over-drawn modesty, the lack of unity in their aims, their easy going natures, their often "pennywise and pound foolish" principles in business may be attributed the phenomenon that to-day, the twelve million Americans of German extraction, who, by virtue of their past history and present worth should demand equal rights with their American fellow citizens, allow themselves in political and social relations to be thrust ignominously into the back-ground.

This fact has always caused a great deal of lively complaint and there have not lacked farseeing German-Americans, who have urged more self-assertion on their fellows. On the

other hand, the natives, who claim to be the only true Americans, have striven to relegate the Germans to a secondary class, by ridiculing their customs and language, by impeding their immigration and diminishing their rights.

Puritanic prudishness framed laws condemning time-honored German usages; native smallness cunningly intrigued against the introduction of products of German culture; in several states their personal liberty was infringed, in others the cultivation of their language interdicted.

The attacks of the antagonistic party grew daily more bold and their claims more grasping, — attempting even to diminish immigration, to eradicate the German language and to subdue the growing influence of the German intellect.

It is on this account we welcome, with all the more satisfaction, the spirit shown by our brethren, within the last few years; which prompts them to throw off the yoke of servility and to endure no longer any infringement of their rights.

All over the country the Germans are now meeting, determined to thwart any attacks made upon them, and this unanimous action has already secured many victories.

If they remain true to themselves, keeping their object well in view, and acting with dignity and discretion, their efforts cannot fail to be crowned with success. Even the calm, deliberating American can no longer remain insensible to the rights of his German fellow citizens, when once their history has been shown up in a right light; and the Germans will then be in a position to enjoy all the advantages this glorious country has to offer her united sons.

The celebration of this so called "German Day", in many of our Cities, may be regarded as an outward sign of the newly-awakening self-assertion on the part of our German-American brothers. The day is dedicated to the landing of the first German pioneers and the heroic deeds of our ancestors in

war and peace, and it will do much to rouse a feeling of veneration in our country men and keep many noble actions from sinking into oblivion. It must also correct the false impression, that this country has only native Puritanism to thank for its greatness.

Then let us rally all our forces, not to make a great show of our power through violence, but simply to prove that thousands of loyal American citizens think and feel from a far more enlightened standpoint than many ignorant politicians.

May this German holiday be celebrated in this spirit where e'r the German heart beats, and may the sturdy good sense of our country-men succeed in making it a glorious festival for all the future; payin greverential tribute to the past generations, honoring the living and setting a good example to the coming race.

THE AUTHOR.

The following exellent works and monographs were drawn upon by the Author:

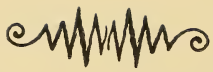
ANTON EICKHOFF: "In der neuen Heimath."

OSWALD SEIDENSTICKER: "Bilder aus der deutsch-pennsylvanischen Geschichte".

FRIED. KAPP: "Die Deutschen im Staate New York".

ANDREW D. MELLICK Jr.: "Das deutsche Element in der amerikanischen Revolution".

MAX VOSS: "Deutschland in Amerika".



The Germans in America.

by

Otto Soubron.

Translated by Jennie R. Skidmore.

A rousing theme I would be singing
To Germans in America,
The fruit of swords and buckler's ringing
—Their honored land—Germania!
'Mid nations on the Rhine—how proudly
She stands like strength personified,
Their gibing tongues and envy loudly
By her victorious arms defied!

A song of German heroism,
Of German ardor, German hearts,
Of German growth and patriotism,
Of German culture, German arts!
Of German fellow-ship, German pleasure,
Of German love and German song,
Of German eyes of heavenly azure,
And German women, true and strong!

A rousing song I would be singing
Your mother-land—Germania!
But first my thanks I must be bringing
To my heart's choice, Columbia!

'Twas she, to Europeans harried
By superstitious hate at home,
Who 'neath a slavish burthen tarried
Streched helping hands and bade them come!
The trembling waif she welcomed sadly
With pitying eyes reviewed his case,
Then pressed him to her brave heart, gladly
To find a happier resting place.

'Twas she, who sent the noble quaker*
Where tyranny and hardship throve,
To offer man a free-hold acre
And sacred bonds of brotherly love;
And homes, the just reward of labor,
Of a strong arm, a dauntless soul!
Where man might learn to love his neigbor
And *mankind's* welfare be his goal!

All nations, freed from superstition,
The German, Frank, and Erin's son;
The humble hand, the proud patrician,
—All met in her broad plains, as one!
And Teutons, her's should be your mission,
Let every comrade learn his role!
Let not your aim be vain ambition
But exaltation of the whole!

And should you prove a mark for malice
To those who claim this "native land",
Take a deep draught of Patience' chalice,
Nor raise a deprecating hand!
But should your free rights be debated,
Then rouse you, every mother's son!
Let all your past deeds be related
And show the World what you have done!

How in her sorest need, Columbia,
Was ever glad to claim the pelf
The blood and lives of old Germania
To exalt and protect herself!
How in those days of war and trouble
Your tongues had meaning in her ears,
Your ranks and reg'ments made her's double,
Your cry of "Vorwärts!" stilled her fears!

And how you gave your manly beauty,
Your lives, your homes, your goods, your funds:
Will she accept an offspring's duty
And not bestow the name of sons?

If simple justice she begrudges,
Then rouse you, every mother's son,
Let human kind all be your judges
And show the World what you have done!

And sing of German heroism,
Of German ardor, German hearts,
Of German growth and patriotism
And German culture, German arts!
Of German fellow-ship, German pleasure,
Of German love and German song,
Of German eyes of heavenly azure
And German women, true and strong!

A stirring theme I would be singing
To Germans in America.
From sea to sea its burthen ringing,
The sons of old Germania!

* William Penn.

DE KALB
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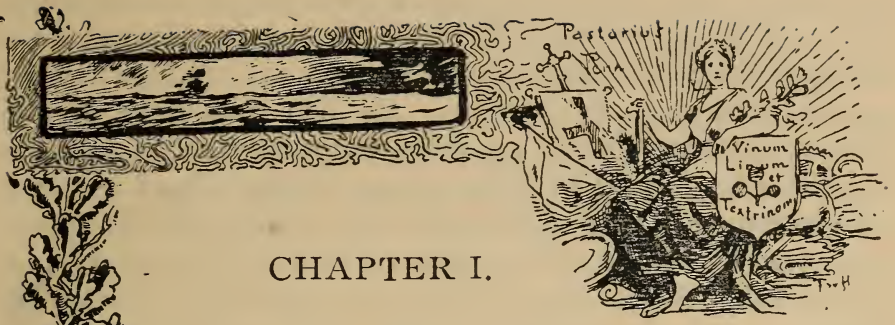
T W H



CHAPTER I.

The first German Immigrants.

The Crefelder Pioneers.

Among the first Europeans, who trod American soil, statistics show us were numerous Germans.

As soldiers, merchants, professional men, fugitives and adventurers, they threw themselves into the stream of humanity, going to seek their fortunes in the new world.

But the arrival of German colonists, in the correct sense of the word, we must date from the 6th of October 1683, where thirteen German families landed at Philadelphia, and began the first German settlement. The impetus to these immigrations was given by William Penn, the celebrated English Quaker, who in the year 1681, received from the English government a piece of land lying north of Maryland in payment of a debt of money due his father.

In the course of time there appeared in the English and German languages a description of "Pennsylvania", as the district was named, in which the favorable situation, the fertile earth, the plentiful hunting and fishing etc. were set forth in

glowing colors. Penn also promised each settler absolute freedom of thought and equality before the law, intelligence which sounded like a promise of heaven to the down trodden and persecuted sectarians in Germany. He also visited the German Quakers extensively and upon his representation, "Land companies" were formed in several cities, whose object it was to obtain grants of land in Pennsylvania. In this manner a company was etablished at Frankfort, which by degrees accumulated 25,000 acres. None of the members, however, were destined to set foot in the new world, with the exception of a young lawyer, named Franz Daniel Pastorius, who officiated as attorney to the company. This pious and travelled young man was easily facsinated by the prospect of beginning life again in a new home, which promised him religious freedom and a wide field in which to exercise his inclination for work and enterprise. It troubled him not a little, that none of his Frankfort friends followed him; and it was, therefore, with the greatest pleasure he hailed the appearance of a number of families from Crefeld, who had decided to forsake their native place and seek a new fatherland in far away Pennsylvania.

On the 24th of July they sailed from Gravesend, paying for the passage five pounds ($25.00) per person.

The ship, which bore the first German colonists to America was called the "Concord", a name having the same right to be perpetuated as that of the "Mayflower"—the vessel, which landed the English Pilgrim fathers in their new home.

The voyage of the Concord, though rather long, passed to the general satisfaction; even the number of passengers was increased by the appearance of a little stranger in the Bleikers family circle.

The Founding of Germantown.

Dirck op den Gräff, Hermann op den Gräff, Abraham op den Gräff, Lenert Arets, Tünes Kunders, Reinert Tisen, Wilhelm

Strepers, Jan Lensen, Peter Keurlis, Jan Simens, Johann Bleikers, Abraham Sünes and Jan Lucken are the names of the fathers, who with their wives and children landed at Philadelphia, on the sixth of October 1683. The foliage of the trees and bushes was already assuming the glow of Autumn, consequently in preparing a suitable abode, they were much pressed for time. To find a proper place and divide it up for a settlement was their first consideration. They then began erecting their buildings. They located at a distanee of six miles from Philadelphia and named the colony Germantown. "Too much cannot be written or said", writes Pastorius, "of the trials and privations endured by these people and of the truly christian spirit and indefatigable industry with which Germantown was begun."

It was with the greatest hardship each foot of ground for hearth and home was obtained from the forest primeval, the true German will-power and diligence alone overcoming these seemingly insurmountable difficulties. By trade most of the pioneers were linen weavers, who cultivated their land and raised cattle at the same time.

Soon after their arrival they decided to cultivate the grapevine, as in their old home, and this attempt was crowned with success. Owing to their great perseverance and the calm and homely aspect of their colony, they soon gained an enviable reputation. The place, where but a few years since the silent, unbroken forest had stood, now resounded with the stroke on the anvil and the whizzing of the loom, while from the peaceful workshops issued the joyful German song of the freeholder.

Even at that time slavery formed a gaunt background to their own freedom, and the present generation of German-Americans may feel proud that these early settlers bitterly resented this degradation of the human race.

It was in April 1688 that a meeting was held at which an historical record of current events was drawn up. This document bears the signature of "ob den Graffs and Garret Hendricks." In the year 1691 a charter was taken out and Germantown made a city. Pastorius was elected Mayor and it became his duty to select a suitable motto for the Seal. He chose a clover-leaf on whose leaves was depicted a grapevine, a seed of flax and a loom, with the inscription "vinum, linum et textrinum". (Wine, linen and loom.) — The idea intended to be conveyed was, that by the cultivation of the grapevine and flax trade, and with God's help, the Pioneers were enabled to maintain themselves honorably. "Surely", says Citizen Seidensticker, "the founder of the first German colony could not have found a more significant emblem of their mission in America. For the past two centuries the leading characteristics of the German immigrant have been a taste for farming and mechanical labor, together with a cheerful enjoyment of life."

The inhabitants of the colony increased rapidly. — Pastorius prophesied that hundreds of countrymen would follow the Crefeld Pioneers and to the introduction of the Records of Germantown, he added the following greeting: "Welcome Followers! Welcome future citizens of Germanopolis! Learn, your predecessors voluntarily foresook the fair land, which gave them birth, to spend their lives in the solitude of the Pennsylvanian forests, in order to enjoy the blessing of Freedom and to acknowledge no bonds but those of German brotherhood. Think of the perils of the voyage across the Atlantic, the difficulties surmounted in settling this strip of North America by members of our German race! Where we have set you a good example, follow it! Where we have diverged from the sometimes thorny path of duty, forgive us; and let our mis-steps be a warning to you. Praise be to you,

coming Generations! Honor to you, German Brothers now and ever more."

Franz Daniel Pastorius.

Born Sep. 26, 1651. Died end of Dec. 1719.

In the father of German immigration may be found the typical German-American in the true sense of the word. He was well educated; of a pious disposition; indefatigably industrious; honest; unselfish; and was far from condemning that spirit of fun which renders life enjoyable. His family came from the city of Erfurt, where his grandfather held the office of an assessor at the Churmainz Court. His father followed in his foot-steps and was at one time judge at the Court in Windsheim. It was quite natural, therefore, that Franz Daniel should also study law. At the same time he evinced a lively interest in matters pertaining to religion and the acquirement of foreign languages. At an early date he showed great sympathy for the Menonites, a sect nearly resembling the Quakers. When, after extensive travel, he returned to his native land and saw the misery and persecution endured by his sect, he grew enthusiastic on the subject of immigration to a foreign country, where religious freedom would be permitted and where hard work would find a just reward. It was for these reasons he entered the employ of the Frankfort Land Co.

When he first beheld Philadelphia, however, he was not a little startled to find the much praised "City of Brotherly Love" consisting of nothing but a few miserable log huts. "The rest", he writes, "was a wild tangle of forest and underbrush, in which I found myself sadly lost. The impression such a place made on me, after just visiting London, Paris, Amsterdam and Ghent, cannot be described."

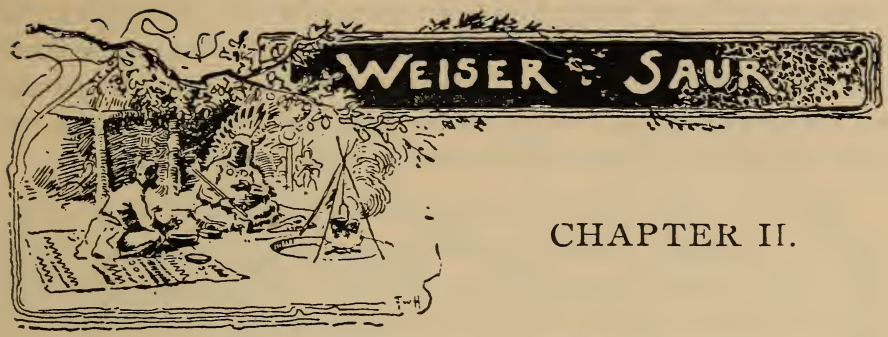
After Germantown was founded a wide field of activity opened for Pastorius. To further the interests of the settlement in every way, now became his mission.

As the settlers increased in number, there was no lack of misunderstandings, disputes, and attacks from outsiders; and Pastorius was always their champion, when the rights and possessions of his countrymen were in question. His sound judgment was unfailing and it stands to reason, he was much honored by his fellow citizens and chosen to fill many important posts. Among all the first settlers, Pastorius was the only single man, but very soon, he too, entered the bonds of wedlock. It was on the 23d of November 1688 that he married Ennecke Klostermann, the daughter of a German physician. The fruit of this marriage were two sons, whose direct descendents, even to the present day, still bear the family name.

In 1700 Pastorius was called to take charge of a Quaker school in Philadelphia. He remained there but a short time, returning to direct a newly established school in Germantown. In addition to his pedagogic duties, he filled the post of Notary Public to the settlers. Even as a poet this great man distinguished himself, showing by his verses a mind greatly impressed by the vastness of nature. Nothwithstanding his almost ceaseless labors, Pastorius never grew to be a wealthy man. When he died in the year 1719, at the age of sixty eight, he left but a very modest sum to his beloved family. No monument marks the place where the founder of Germantown, the father of German-American immigration now lies. That his remains are buried in the Quaker Cemetary of Germantown, is but a reasonable supposition. Should a monument ever be erected to this great man, — whose unimpeachable integrity and stern conscientiousness are well authenticated and who is the worthy predecessor of all the millions of German immigrants in America, — these words commemorating the character of William Penn, might be chosen for a motto:

Vir sobrius, probus, prudens et pius, spectatae inter omnes inculpataeque famae.

"A sober, upright, examplary and pious man, bearing an honorable and unblemished name."



CHAPTER II.

The growing Importance of the German Influence before the Revolution. 1683--1776.

In 1683 William Penn preached there in the German language, and in 1793, when the yellow fever had broken out in Philadelphia, George Washington made his home there and frequently attended the German place of worship. For years the custom of holding an annual market or fair was kept up, — when a portion of the time was given up to merry-making.

Germantown may be called the genesis of German Science and Industry in America. In 1738 Christopher Saur erected the first German printing office and publishing house, which carried on a successful business for more than forty years. It was he who published the first German Bible: the first printed on the American continent. Thirteen editions quickly followed. It was not until forty years later the first English Bible made its appearance. This fact alone is a great feather in the cap of German enterprise and does much to prove these early settlers were by no means so rough and untutored as is generally supposed. The first German News paper, which appeared on the 20th of August 1739 and was called the "Highgerman Pennsylvania Historian", soon reached a wide circulation. In the year 1751 the number of subscribers had swelled to 4000 and

a few years later we find Saur apologizing to his readers, because the great number of copies to be published made their prompt delivery difficult. Beside the news paper his presses were kept continually busy by the number of song books, religious tracts and various leaflets, constantly demanded.

The first paper-mill on American soil was built at Germantown by Klaus and William Ritterhaus; as were, also, the first type-foundry and brewery. A law was passed forbidding saloonkeepers to sell above a certain quantity of beer to each person. The Iron Industry, which was to reach such gigantic proportions in after years, first leaped into existence at Germantown. But it was not at Germantown alone that Germans established themselves; they quickly spread over the greater part of the present state of Pennsylvania. Religious persecution in the old World drove these new arrivals over the sea, as it had their predecessors. The emigration from Pfalz, which had been cruelly devastated by the French, was quite remarkable in 1688. Thousands of ruined families fled over Holland and England, towards Pennsylvania and landed in quick succession. The Mystics, the Menonites, and many other sects, sought an asylum in America. Among the most prominent of these, was a sect called the Herrnhuters, who moved from their original colony in Georgia into Pennsylvania. Their founder, Count Ludwig of Zinzendorf, devoted himself with most untiring energy to converting the Indian to the Christian faith. But his work as a missionary, the first attempted on American soil, was not successful, and completely discouraged he returned to Europe.

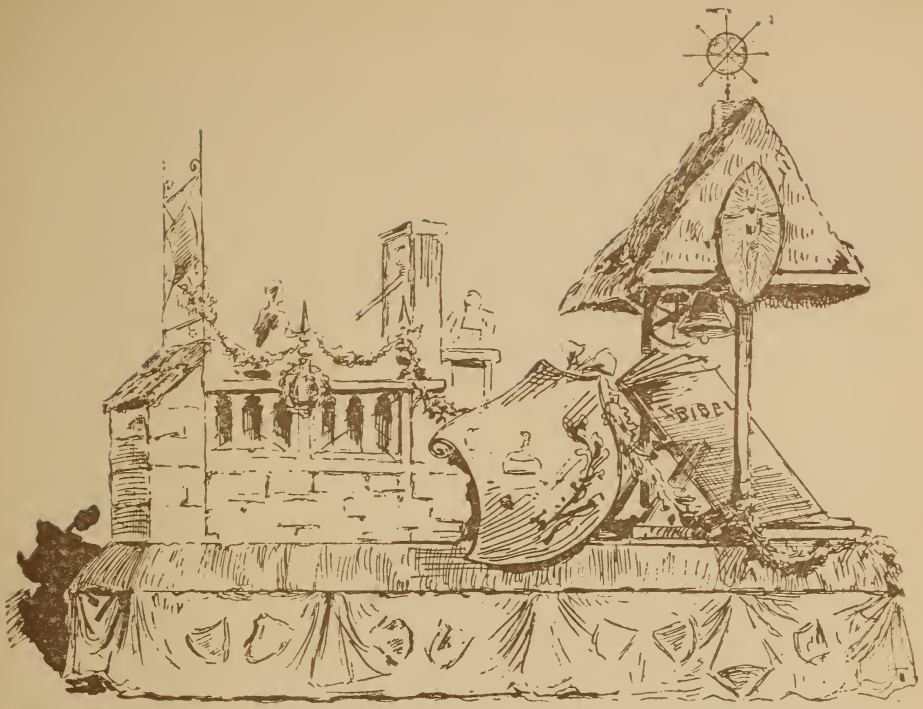
The settlement, however, through the influence of Aug. Gottlieb Spangenberg received great benefit; the Herrnhuter schools at Bethlehem, Nazareth and Litiz, ranking as the best in the land.

Geo. Peter.

Penn and Pastorius.

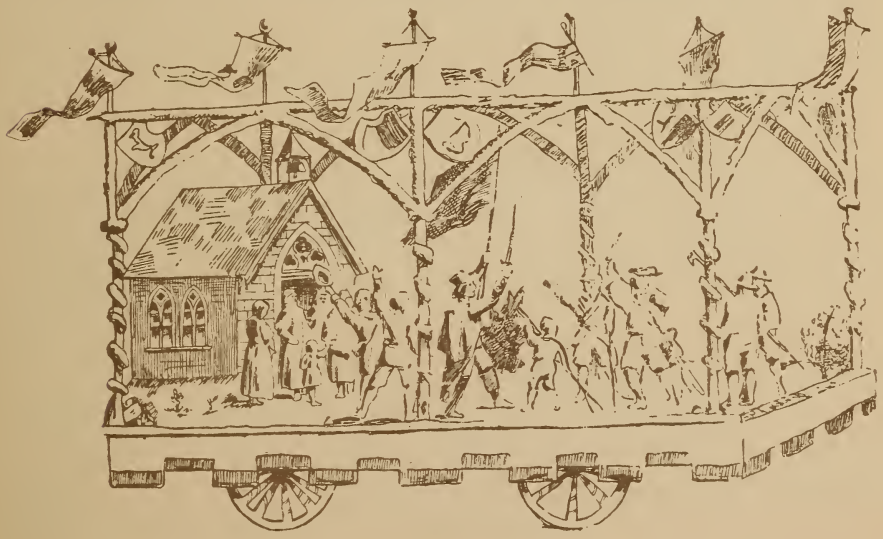
A. Lehr.

Founding of Germantown.



P. Wolfe.

Print of the first Bible in America by Cristoph Saur 1743.



E. J. Peege

Muehlenbergs Departure from his Congregation.

Lutheranism made its appearance through the efforts of Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg, a sincere and pious preacher, who to a warm heart united a clear head, shrewd judgement and great energy and perseverance. Under his direction many Lutheran societies were formed and schools founded. The majority of which were very successful. When the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church, as he was reverently called, died in 1787, he had every reason to congratulate himself on the result of his work.

Through the influence and activity of Michael Schlatten, even the followers of the Reformed Religion soon gained in numbers and importance. The members of this sect came principally from the Pfalz and they arrived in such numbers that the appellations of "Pfalzer" and "German" became almost synonymous. Both, Lutherans and members of the Reformed Church, were among the settlers of Tulpehocken in the Lebanon Valley. These settlers came from the Province of New York, having lived in Schoharie, west of Albany. They formed a part of that mass of emigration to London, which caused the English government so much perplexity in 1709. Many thousands of these German fugitives were sent to New York on the Hudson, where it was their fate to endure untold suffering.

Therefore, about 150 families settled in the territory of the Maqua Indians, near the Mohawk and Schoharie, but they were forced to depart from here also, as the Governor would not recognize their rights to land they had obtained from the natives.

Taking all their possessions and followed by wife and child, they were guided by friendly Indians through the wilderness to the Susquehannah River, where they built rafts and eventually reached the beautiful Lebanon Valley and Tulpehurd River and founded a prosperous colony.

There were not many Catholics in Pennsylvania. It was not until the year 1741, that the Reverend Theo. Schneider gathered together a congregation and called it the Holy Cross. This was in the town of Goshehoppen in Montgomery County. Befor the Revolutionary war there were hardly 900 German Catholics in Pennsylvania, and these were scattered about in the large cities. It is not to be wondered at that the English speaking population of Pennsylvania regarded the growing influence of the Germans with envy. The cry was for laws diminishing emmigration. To this the Government agreed, saying it was not against the people themselves it was prejudiced, but it disapproved of the fact that an English Colony should be composed of foreigners.

In the year 1717 it was required that every stranger should swear allegiance to the king of England. To this the Germans readily agreed. In 1729 each new comer was required to pay to the Government the sum of twenty shillings. But the Government soon saw, this would be detrimental to the country itself and recalled it the following year. Ten years later Governor Thomas issued the following proclamation: "This Province has for many years been a haven to the persecuted Protestants of the Pfalz and other parts of Germany. I believe that the prosperous condition of this country is greatly due to the industry of these people and that any discouraging precautions on the part of the Government, might hinder their coming, in which case, it is to be feared, the value of real estate would be lowered and the progress of the province impeded. For it is not alone the fruitful condition of the soil, but the industry of the number of farmers that renders a country prosperous.

New York.

Ever since the first Europeans landed in this country, the Germans have played an important part in settling it; and in

the wars against the natives, in bartering and hunting, the German name is ever prominent.

Peter Minnit, the first Dutch Governor, who was later the founder of the first Swedish Colony on the Delaware, was born at Wesel on the Niederrhein. John Prinz, Governor of New Sweden, was likewise by birth a German nobleman, as were also Herr von Buchau and Johann Rosnigh, — the last Swedish governors, — who came from the Prussian city of Elbing.

The tragic history of Jacob Leisler, the second German Governor of New York, is particularly interesting. He was born at Frankfort on the Main, and was greatly esteemed, not only on account of his wealth, but because of his benevolent character and the kindliness he showed to all. As the oldest officer, he was in command of one of the first military commanderies and had the reputation of being an excellent soldier. When in 1689 the hated King Jacob the Second was dethroned and William of Orange, chosen in his place, the old colonial officers, who were as much disliked as the king himself, feared for their safety und left the province. Leisler was thus rendered the highest officer and he took the position of vice governor at a great deal of personal sacrifice and strove faithfully for the welfare of the country. When, in the year 1690 the French Canadians invaded New York, he guarded the city with great prudence, collected an army and called into life a navy. At his own cost, Leisler fully equipped a man of war, the first ever launched in New York harbor. The aristocrats, however, opposed him with all their might, putting obstacles in his way, sowing dissention and spreading bad reports of him. Thus intrigues, which ultimately reached the court, were at last crowned with success. The king appointed a new Governor, Slaughter by name, a man of loose morals, who became a willing tool in the hands of the aristocrats. At their instigation, he had Leisler arrested, immediatily upon his arrival. Through incessant intrigues they at length succeeded in obtaining a

"death-warrant for the German captain"' which the governor, while in a fit of intoxication was induced to sign. The intense excitement and bitterness that his action called forth among the German colonists caused Parliament to declare it illegal and to greatly praise and commend all of Leislers acts.

His body, which had been harshly interred beside the gallows, was unearthed and reburied with all due honor and respect, in the presence of an immense gathering of people, in a cemetery, and his heirs received a large sum of money as indemnity. It was a long while, however, before the ill humor, caused by this deed of violence, was appeased. The Germans naturally felt particulary sore on this point. Although not so numerous as in Pennsylvania, many German colonies had been started in New York. It was in the year 1709, that the mass immigration, before mentioned, of the inhabitants of the Pfalz, took place. They numbered 13,000 and endured great privation while waiting to be forwarded to the English colonies. About 2000 finally reached New York, after hundreds had fallen victims to the terrible sea voyage and tedious quarantine. Even in their new home these emigrants were subjected to numerous trials; as unscrupulous people in authority and capitalists took advantage of them in every way. The strangers were forwarded to the Hudson, on whose banks stood endless pine forests and where tar pitch and turpentine were prepared for the use of the English navy. An English nobleman named Hunter was placed as Governor over these people but he proved to be the wrong man for the post and the Germans suffered much through his injustice and cruelty. It was in vain they appealed to the Government; after many fruitless attempts, a terrible feeling of discontent grew among them and banding themselves together, undeterred by the prospect of endless hardships, they pushed into the Scholarie valley. Even here they did not find the place they sought, as they were constantly harassed by the Indians. That a number of them

finally floated down the Hudson and reached the Tulpehoken River, we have already seen. Other settlers had moved to the valley of the Mohawk and soon flourishing towns and fertile field showed what German industry could accomplish.

This chain of German settlements formed a safe guard against the attacks of the Indians for many years. Back of them cities and villages could flourish in peace. During the Revolutionary war, the corn fields of the Germans often sustained the famishing soldiers. The first campaign in which German troops took part was in 1711, when the German colonists were required to furnish 300 men. They marched towards Canada. The captain in command was Jacob Kneiskern, and a village on the Scholarie River bears his name to this day. The Germans received no recompense whatever, for their services during this war. The two most prominent Germans at that time were Johann Konrad Weiser and his son Konrad Weiser. Both were brave leaders in war, and sound advisers in times of peace. They understood the language and customs of the Indians and through their just and clever treaties, many cruel wars were averted.

Many were the dangers to which these promises were exposed and many were the sacrifices made in paving the way for the future civilization of the new Fatherland.

THE OTHER PIONEERS.

Beside the settlements in New York and Pennsylvania, immigration to the province of Carolina was increasing. Graffenried and Michel secured large grants of land and in 1710 brought two ships, with 650 emigrants from Pfalz. The Indians soon after took Graffenried prisoner but released him on his claiming to be the king of the Pfalzer and promising that his people would hold themselves aloof from any war in which the English and Indians might engage. His cunning saved the settlement from devastation. In 1768 Charleston was foun-

ded and it soon grew to be one of the most important sea ports on the south Atlantic coast. Turrysburg, Orangeburg and Sachse-Gotha — now called Lexington — are also cities founded by the Germans.

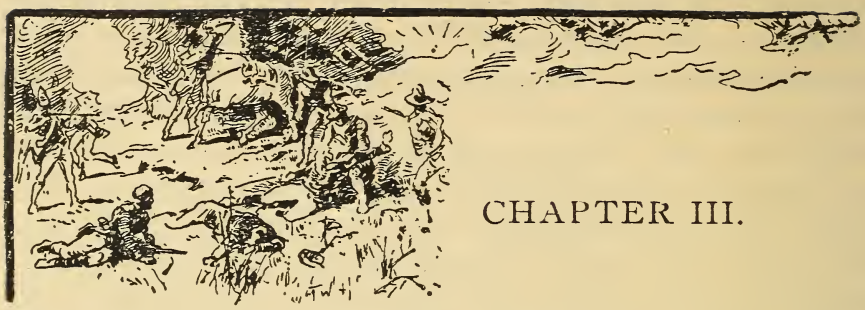
GERMAN EMIGRANTS.

It is said that part of these emigrants were murdered on ship board by the greedy crews. This is the origin of the "Legend of the ship of the poor Pfalzers", which was supposed to appear off the coast once a year, until the last of the murderers had expiated his crimes. Perhaps some of the earliest settlers of Virginia were Germans, at least many German-Swiss, organized colonies there. In 1734, under king George II., fugitives from Salzburg were sent from England to Georgia, — that haven for the persecuted who furnished the colony of Ebenezer, on the Savannah River, which flourished for some time. Baltimore, the capital of Maryland was also made up largely of Germans, who established numerous business houses etc.

German Emigration to their colonies, was much encouraged by the English Government, in the past century. Unscrupulous land agents and sea captains, however, seized every opportunity to take advantage of their inexperience. — On shipboard, these unfortunates were consigned to damp quarters, often half their number perishing during the voyage. That terror of emigrants — scurvey — claimed many victims and rendered the life at sea one of untold misery. Some futile attempts were made to alleviate their sufferings — but the Government was not to be approached on their behalf, and and the ship owners and colony-agents either could not or would not bestir themselves. There was no improvement in their condition until the Germans in America lent their countrymen a helping hand. It was in Philadelphia, at that time the greatest port of immigration, that a number of Germans organized themselves into society, for the purpose of protecting new comers. On the 26, of December 1764, the German

Society of Philadelphia", — the oldest organization in the country, — was called into life. Heinrich Rippele, a much esteemed merchant, was the first president. To their untiring efforts, the lessoning of this evil is due. On their arrival, the immigrants were taken in charge by their friends, and were much helped by the advice and assistance they received. The Society was often obliged to resort to desperate measures in order to fully root out the brutality shown the strangers.

Similar societies sprung into existence at Charlestown, S. C., in 1719, New York in 1784, Baltimore in 1817 and in other large cities of the east and west. Thousands and thousands of Germans have cause to bless these companies.



CHAPTER III.

The Germans in the Cause of Freedom 1776—1783.

"Before the Revolutionary war there were no Americans." This country was composed of Englishmen, Hollanders, Swedes, Germans etc. who remained strangers to each other by reason of the difference in their languages and customs.

But the common wish to throw off the tyranny of England, which now began to be agitated, formed a band of general sympathy and laid the foundation of our National Patriotism. From the first the German Colonists were averse to the authority of the English. It was among them the idea of Freedom originated and when the first steps were taken towards securing it, they sacrificed all, and in the earliest conflicts distinguished themselves. German merchants in Philadelphia, — the two Keppell, John Steinmetz, David Deschler and others — were among the first to sign a resolution not to import English goods, others protesting against English exaction. This was in November 1765, — but as early as 1774 preparations for this unavoidable war were in progress. No one was more ready to appreciate German loyalty and heroism than George Washington himself and at the breaking out of the war his body guard was composed almost exclusively of Teutons.

His illustrious contemporary, Jefferson, also held them in high esteem. And well did they deserve it! It was not through force of circumstances, but by their own free will, that they left their homes, shouldered the musket and congregrated under the Flag of Freedom! Not a Company in the land but held a proportion of them, — while in Pennsylvania and Virginia, they composed whole regiments, including officers. Among the first volunteers was a company formed of eighty patriarchs, (German emigrants) who had seen service in their old home. Their commander was almost a centenarian and had fought in seventeen battles. Not one of his soldiers has been less than than seventy years. The prompt, self sacrificing and courageous spirit, in which the German settlers responded to the country's call, cannot be better illustrated than by this one incident.

All that the Germans did at that time was gladly acknowledged by the English speaking colonists in the warmest praise. They described them as being quiet and industrious in peace, brave as lions in war, faithful to any trust and always ready to discharge their duty, with that unflinching steadfastness, which is a national characteristic.

One of the most prominent personages of that time was General Gabriel Peter Muehlenberg, son of the renowned Lutheran divine, to whose successful work, we have already called attention. Young Muehlenberg had also become a minister and at the outbreak of the war he had a congregation in Wood stock, Va. From the first he was an enthusiast in the cause of Freedom. In the year 1776, when the Colonists were preparing for war, Muehlenberg stood in his pulpit, clad in the dashing uniform of a commander and spoke to his flock of the stern importance of that time and their duties to their native land. In glowing terms he described the glorious cause of Freedom, and winding up with the words "There is a time to pray and a time to fight", left the pulpit and threw himself

into the frays. A year later he was made Brigadier-general and established an enviable reputation as a soldier. He particularly distinguished himself at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Georgetown, by his bravery and humanity. At the battle of Yorktown he and his trusty followers took the fortification at the point of the bajonet, thus performing one of the most heroic acts of the war.

When peace was established, Muehlenberg served both as representative and senator and occupied a very prominent position in his state of Pennsylvania. The nation has paid homage to him by placing his portrait in the Gallery at Washington. His monument shows him in the act of throwing off his clerical garb and assuming the soldiers uniform. And another example of German bravery, Nicolaus Herkheimer, will always be honored in the annals of this country. He was mortally wounded at the unfortunate battle near Oriskany, where he was in command of the German troops. The Anglo-American author, Andrew S. Mellick, says "Imagine him sittiug under a tree, covered with wounds but still grasping his trusty sword, encouraging his men with his dying breath; while all about him was the din and turmoil of battle. We all know it was thus the English were kept from advancing and the Americans were enabled to gain the victory at Saratoga. All honor to this brave German Soldier! His career was sublime but short. What glorious deeds might he not have done, had he been spared. History has not yet given his full meed of praise; but Washington's words will help keep his memory green. He says: "It was Herkheimer, the hero of the Mohawk Valley, who first succeeded in effecting a happy turn in the fortunes of our northern army. It was not vain ambition which inspired him, but love of his country." With him, we must mention General de Kalb, who likewise suffered death for his new home. He was killed in the unlucky battle near Camden. The attack was made against his advice and his words to his men, when he

lead them to the enemy were: "If victory is not to be our lot at least we have done our duty!" Three times he lead the attack, and three times was forced to retreat. At the fourth, he received a severe saber cut on the head. Hastily binding it up he again led his forces into the fray. His horse was shot under him, but remounted, he forced his way forward on foot. Bleeding from eleven wounds, he at length fell back and expired, but even in falling managed to run his sword through the body of an enemy.

Yet the most prominent German name of these stirring times was that of Frederic Wilhelm von Steuben. He had fought in the seven years war under Frederic the Great, and with glory. He willingly responded when America called upon him to give his services in the cause of Freedom. He was appointed General Inspector of the Army, a post which Congress purposely created for him and which was only inferior to that of Commander in Chief. When Steuben took his position, Washington wrote to Congress. "The long service of this General in the best military of Europe, added to the great distinction he has won, make him him a very fit person for the responsible position he is called upon to fill in our army." He justified Washingtons confidence in every particular discharging his duties with wonderful ardor and precision. He traversed the whole country, organizing helpless masses of humanity into well regulated troops. Through his indefatigable energy he succeded in raising an army, which was not only eager and heroic, but well disciplined and orderly. He then wished to enter active service, and nothwithstanding many intrigues was given a high position in the field by Washington, who prized him greatly. His plans were always distinguished by their clearness and boldness; and it was he who defeated the English at Yorktown. We see by this that two German generals played an important part in the emancipation of this Country. Muehlenberg as a spirited leader and Steuben as an expert in military tactics.

At the close of the war – Washington was loud in his praises of the latter and the country at large, showered tokens of gratitude upon him, while Congress granted him a yearly pension of $2500. This hero died in 1794 at the age of 64 deeply regretted by the whole nation, by whom his memory will always be revered.

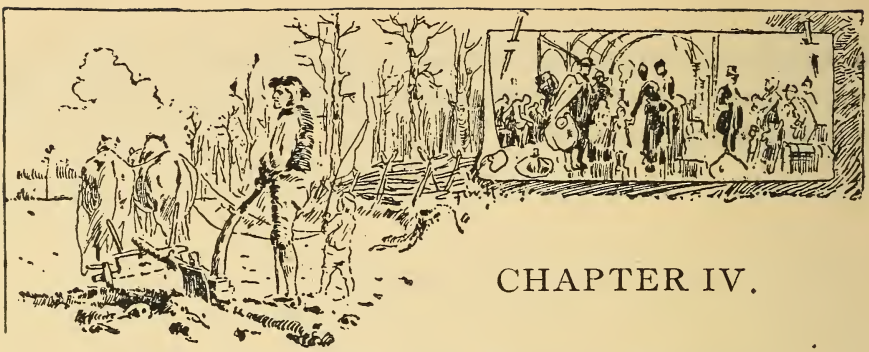
Many other German officers rendered this country valuable service, and we cannot refrain from calling attention to a few. David Ziegler from Ohio, who was so successfull as a drill master, and who later distinguished himself in the wars with the Indians; Johann Philip de Haas, the Hiester Brothers of Reading, von Heer, Paul Schott, Adam Partmann, and many others.

To one hero, who did not play a prominent part in the war itself, a few words must be devoted. He was a baker named Christopher Ludwig, who followed his trade in Philadelphia. At the time of the Revolution he was already fifty years old, but he evinced all the interest of a youug man in political events. When, in the Convention of 1776 the question of raising funds to purchase necessary weapons arose, many members seemed doubtful as to the outcome of the same.

Ludwig however, arose and said, "I am but a poor gingerbread baker, yet I wish you to put my name down for 200 pounds." This man's magnificent example quieted the grumblings of the others. By a decree of Congress, Ludwig was made Chief baker to the army.

His predecessor had furnished one hundred pounds of bread for every hundred pounds of flour; and more was not expected of Ludwig. But he said "From one hundred pound of flour one can bake one hundred and thirty pounds of bread, and this quantity I shall deliver. "The honest baker disclaimed recompense, from his country while it was in trouble. George Washington took a strong fancy to this noble man, often inviting

him to dinner and calling him "my honest friend." The father of this Country admired German integrity as much as he appreciated German loyalty.



CHAPTER IV.

The Germans of the Present Century.

After the emancipation of the colonies there was almost a complete stop in the emigration. Napoleon was then engaged in his wars throughout Europe, — which suspended nearly all intercourse between the old world and the new.

But after his fall, the flow of emigration was greater than ever, owing to the sad political condition of the old country. The new-comers, however, were people of very different calibre than the pioneers. The majority were not poverty striken, but people of wealth and refinement, who did not care to live longer in a country, with whose political character they could not sympathize. A large number of farmers also sought this country, thinking that the fruitful soil might be worked to good advantage. They also raised cattle extensively. By degrees emigration was robbed of many of its terrors and as time passed, thousands and hundred of thousands of Germans landed here yearly, spreading over the Country from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. Few however settled in the southern or in the new England states; but poured in one unbroken stream into the west and northwest. Up to the time of the Civil War the total number of German emigrants was 2 millions; and if we include the descendents of former settlers, formed about one sixth of the population. The Germans in

Ohio and Indiana soon become very influential and up to the present day retain their importance. A colony of Swiss cultivated vine yards with great success in those regions, while a Rhinelander named Baum, by the aid of his countrymen started large commercial and artistic enterprises in Cincinnati the largest city of Ohio. All over the country newcomers sought homes, and by their untiring industry, usually succeeded in securing an ample competence.

Many different sects established Congregations, one of the most prominent being that founded by the disciples of Rapp.

Germans settled in Missouri were found at St. Louis and in Illinois having founded Belleville, St. Clair and Chicago, which last soon throve as a German metropolis. In 1830 a number of people of the German province of Würtemberg moved into Michigan and settled Ann Arbor. This settlement prospered and soon five or six thousand Swabians were enrolled among the inhabitans. Michigan is now settled by thousands of native Germans. Toward the end of the thirties, Wisconsin became the goal of Teuton Emigration. Two or three hundreds a week would arrive at Milwaukee alone, which number increased to 1000 and 1400. The other towns grew at much the same rates, until Wisconsin was known as the most German State in the Union. The fact that it has become one of the wealthiest and most flourishing, testifies favorably to German enterprize. A new possession in which the Germans were interested, ten years later, was Texas.

The Earl of Castell, an adjutant of the Duke of Nassau, and a member of the Aristocracy, endeavored to lead the stream of immigration in that direction and succeeded in making Texas very popular in Germany for a while. Numbers flocked there and to California, but none were very successful, few meeting with the golden reward they had been led to expect. However the German element in San Francisco and Los

Angelos is to day very great. Germans also settled in Iowa, Kansas, Washington, Dakota and Minnesota. Both farmers and mechanics found a wide field of labor open to them and by their industry and perseverance became a highly respected community.

R. Schade und A. Fink.

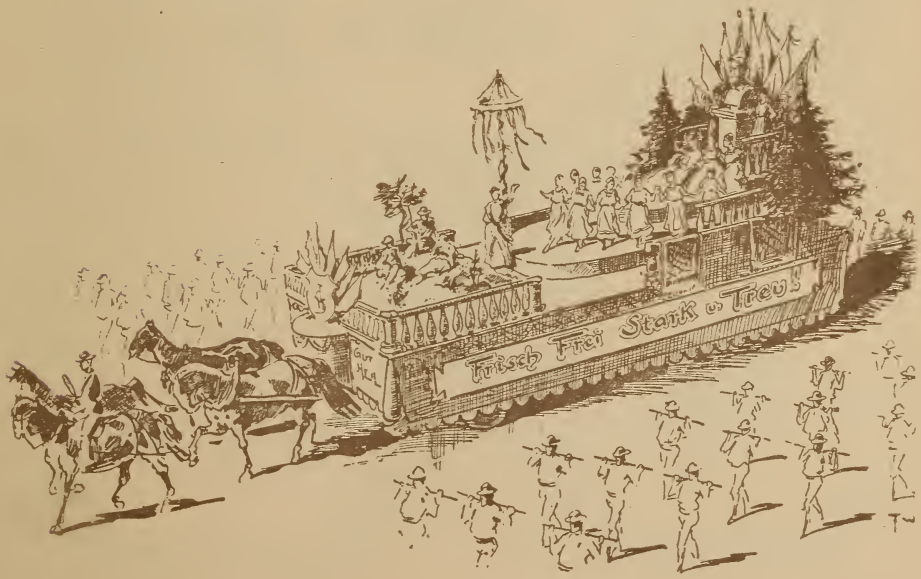
Battle of Oriskany. Herckheimers death.

O. Strack.

Washington and his German body-guard.

A. Lobr.

Wisconsin.



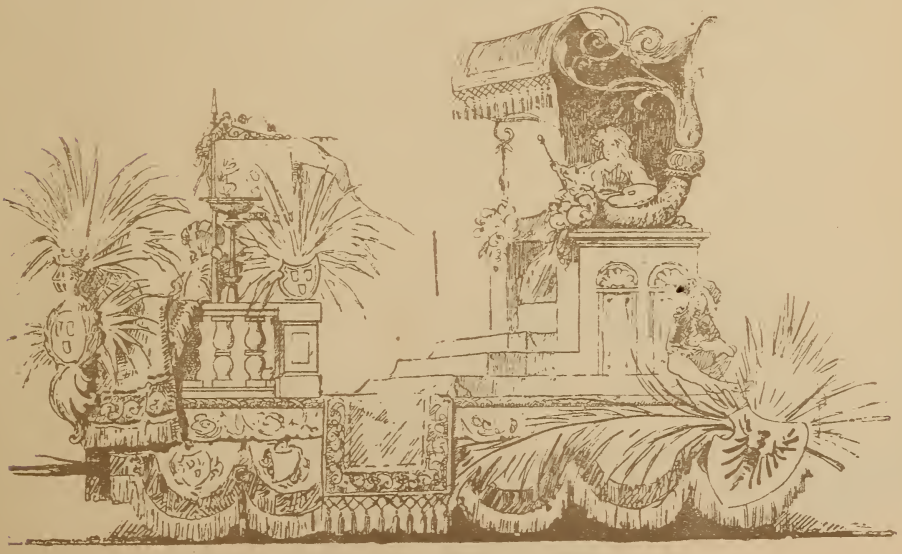
F. W. Heine und Carl Barkhausen.

The Turners.

Karl Schurz
Ludwig Blenker
Franz Sigel
Geo. Weitzel
August Willich

F. Rohrbeck.

The Germans in the Civil War.

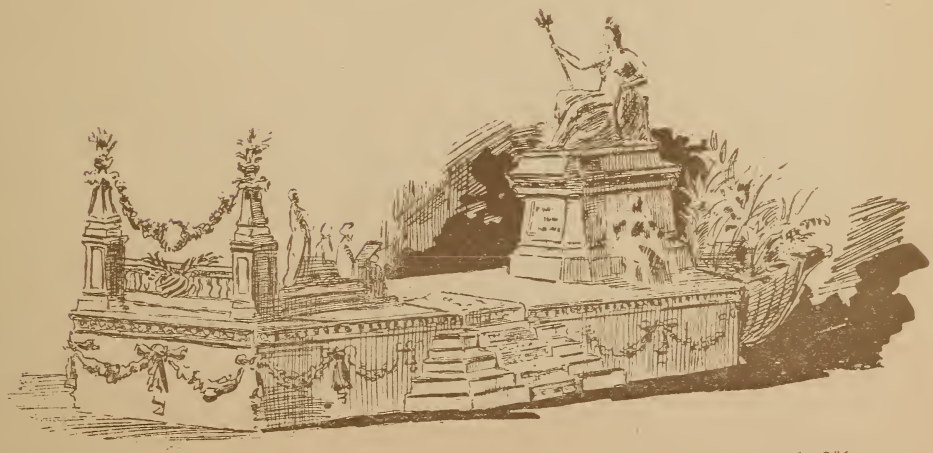


B. Michalowski.

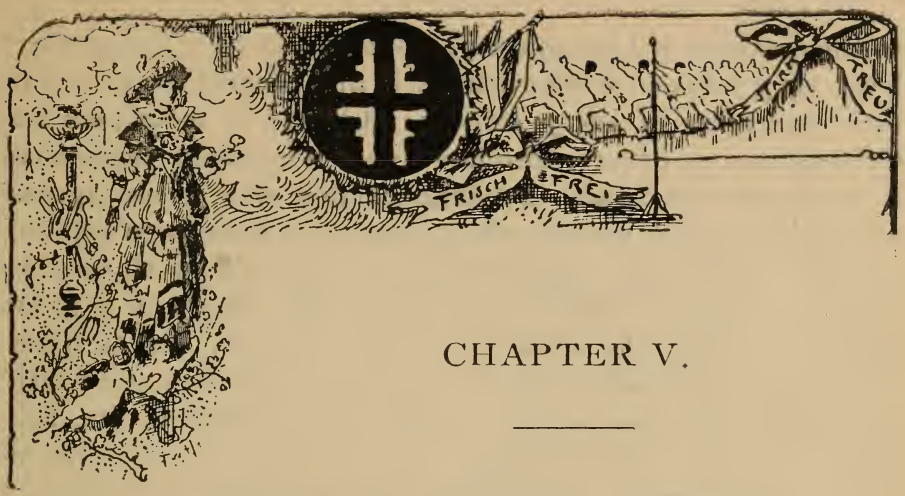
German Art

A. Löher.

Christmas tree and Kindergarten.



A. Löher.



CHAPTER V.

Development of Intellectual Life of the Germans.

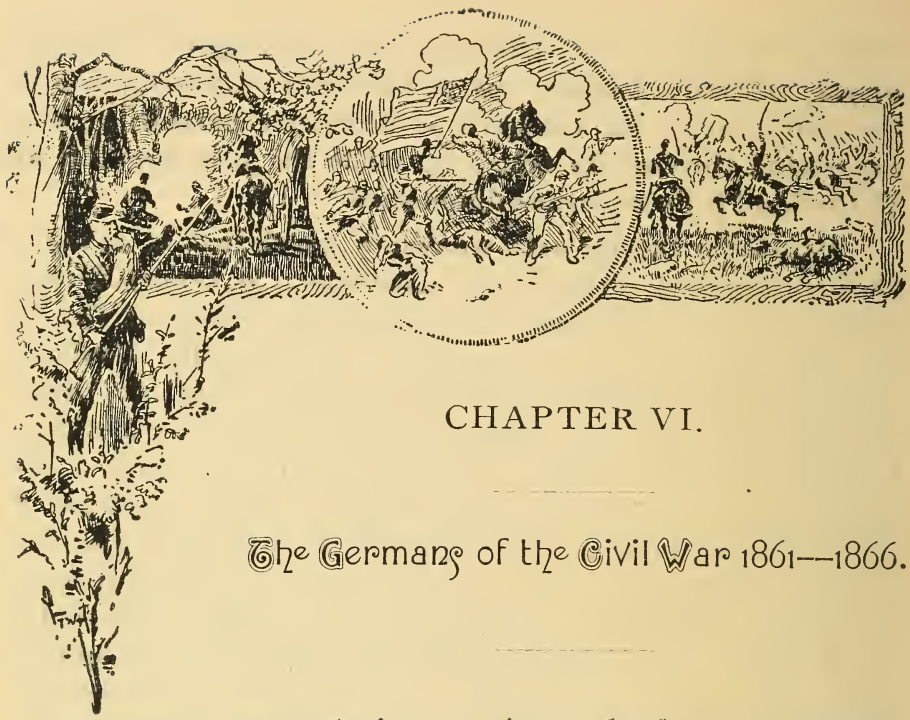
As the number of Germans increased in the towns and on the plains, they evinced a great desire to establish their old customs in their new home, and to cultivate their mother tongue as well as the English. German congregations and schools went hand in hand, German benevolent societies and lodges were founded and wherever a hundred Teutons had settled, a German Newspaper appeared. One great impetus to their intellectual progress however, was the arrival of a class of people called "Dreissiger" and others going by the name of "Acht und vierziger". These were men who made themselves obnoxious in the old country and had crossed the ocean to escape persecution. They formed quite a colony and their influence was felt throughout, as they fostered a feeling of discontentment in the conservative communities which gave rise to much discord and trouble. Their idea was to perpetuate the political ideals on American soil, which had wrecked them in the European revolution,—and they had to swallow many a bitter pill, before they brought themselves to conform

to the customs of this country. But having once found their level, they went to work with a will and became the equals of their compeers in every respect. Let us but mention a few German men of letters, who have made a name for themselves in their adopted home. Frederic Münch was a courageous and indefatigable writer, who did much to encourage intellectual life in Missouri. He was bitterly opposed to slavery as was also Frederic Hecker, another author, who was a great agitator before the Civil war. Karl Schurz, the German-American Statesman, Minister, General, Journalist and Lecturer requires no introduction, nor does Carl Heinzen, the brilliant advocate of free thought. Hermann Raster, the influential, widely known Journalist, Konrad Krez, the German-american poet, Franz Sigel, Angust Willich, Fr. Hassaurek, R. Heerbrandt, H. Domschke, Emil Dietsch, Ed. Degener Gustav Koerner are well known names. Through their influence progress was astonishingly rapid. German singing and turning societies sprouted up like mushrooms, being found wherever a few families had gathered. The love of society seems to be imbued in the German nature, and certainly not to its detriment. Their associations gained the same influence in the new world, they already enjoyed in the old, and it was only Puritanism and unjust prejudice against foreigners which prevented their zeal and worth being recognized.—At this day however, they have gained a firm foot hold and are being better appreciated. Their yearly recurring festivals must convince Americans that the German can combine the qualities of a true and faithful citizen with those of mirth and sociability and that an occasional holiday does much to sweeten life.

Besides these associations, the German press was constantly growing in influence, often under the most adverse circumstances. The rapid growth of the societies was largely due to its influence, while the German language found a clear and

willing champion in it. Through the teachings of this great organ, Germans became good American citizens, soon after their arrival, for the spirit of American patriotism finds expression through its columns, while the love for the old Fatherland is by no means diminished.

A taste for the fine arts was soon awakened in many of the German cities. In New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, Denver, St. Paul, Kansas City, Davenport, Indianapolis, Louisville and other cities German theatres were built, companies organized and the work of German classics and modern authors brought before the public. The well drilled stationary stock-companies of the German stage formed a great contrast to the wandering troops, who supplied the American theatres. German culture made great progress after the revolutionary troubles in Germany. Immigration no longer consisted of people who were obliged to maintain themselves by manual labor, but of men and women of education and refinement. The number of German professors, physicians, divines, journalists and artists constantly increased and their influence had a very beneficial effect on the intellectual life of their countrymen.



CHAPTER VI.

The Germans of the Civil War 1861—1866.

As in the old Revolutionary times, the Germans promtly collected, when the welfare of their country required them. They streamed from city and county, from the workshop and the plough, from the hunting grounds of the wild west and the office-desk, to shoulder arms and fight for the land.

They formed the stamina of the northern army, statistics showing that the Germans in the twenty two northern states furnished 187,858 soldiers, where in proportion to their number they were only required to send 128,000. 168 Germans out of every 1000 entered the army, while out of the same number of native Americans, 81 joined in the ranks. The sons of the immigrants are here reckoned as Americans. The German troops found no lack of brave German officers, whose names will always be remembered in the history of this country. General Hecker ("the Favorite of the people" as

he was called) was one of the most gallant leaders; General August Willich won the victory at Bowling Green and this saved Kentucky for the Union; General Adolph Engelmann, who died a hero's death at the battle of Shiloh; General Ludwig Blenker, who covered the retreat at the battle of Bull Run, General Karl Eberhard Salomon, who helped materially in gaining Missouri for the North; General Max Weber, who was killed at the victory of Antietam; General Alex. Schimmelpfennig, who made the first entry into turmoiled Charleston; General Heinrich Bohlen, who suffered death at the head of his troops on the Rappahanok; General August Moor, leader in the Schenandoah Valley; General Hugo Wangelin, the victor at Tea Ridge, Atlanta, Ringold and Lookout Mountain; General Ad. von Steinwehr, victor at Gettysburg and Chattanooga; General Major Frederic Salomon, conquering so much in Arkansas; General Major Franz Sigel, who performed the masterly retreat and gained the victory of Pea Ridge; General Major Julius Stahel, the hero of Shiloh; General Major Karl Schurz, who took part in the march of the Potomac and the siege of Vicksburg, Peter Chris. Osterhaus, who was victorious at Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta and Savannah; General Major Kautz, the dashing cavalry officer; General Major Gottfried Weitzel, the intrepid Commander at Charles River and who led the first Regiment into Richmond,— were all Germans. Ad. Buschbeck, Ludwig von Blessing, John A. Koltes von Knobelsdorff, S. Wagner. Franz Hassendeubel and Fred C. Winkler etc. deserve honorable mention. The nation has fully acknowledged their valuable services, and those hard times are still too fresh in the heart of the people, to make further mention of them necessary.

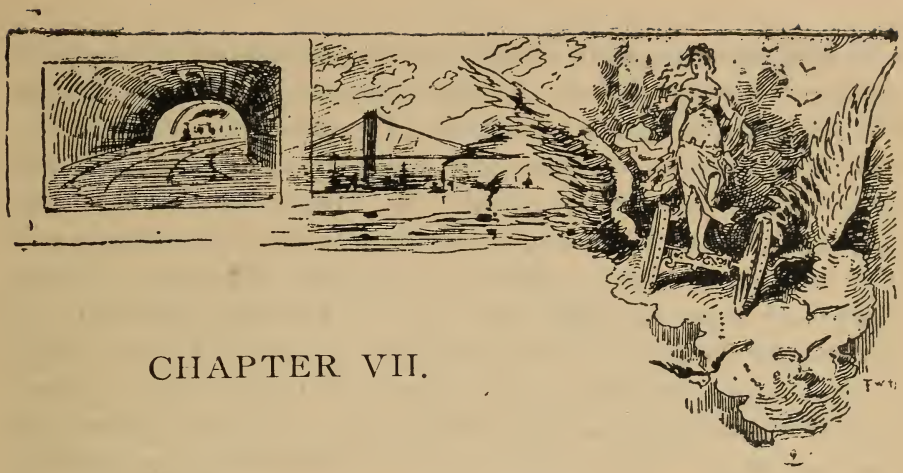
The South was very much chagrined at the active part taken by the Germans against Slavery. Whenever the southern army came in contact with German settlers, their treatment of

them was most cruel. The inhabitants of the southern part of Missouri, were made to suffer particularly; for it was through them Missouri belonged to the Union,—Territory which the south had coveted. In those years of war and distress, the Turners played a very prominent part. They organized troops and drilled them and it is marvelous how many officers were among their ranks. The first Regiment which left St. Louis was called the Turner Regiment. Even to this day though a quarter of a century has elapsed, since peace was declared, the traces of German heroism are plainly visible. Whenever there is a reunion of Veterans, numerous Germans are found among them, who take pleasure in recording past deeds of valor and praising the bravery of their German leaders. The old people tell their children and grandchildren how they helped save the Union and how Abraham Lincoln praised the Germans in the same hearty terms George Washington employed years before.

After the Declaration of Peace.

If the German felt pleasure and satisfaction at the result of the strife in this country, how much was their gratification heightened when news came that Germany, their old Fatherland had also gained the rank it was entitled to in Europe, after the bloody wars of 1866, 1870 and 1871 The political situation of the old country could not fail to have its effect on our German-Americans. More than ever did they feel themselves brothers, more than ever realize that in "union is strength".

Had it not been for the successful issue of this event we could not now be celebrating a "German Day".



CHAPTER VII.

Importance and Influence of the Germans of the Present Day.

According to statistics, the number of German emigrants in America, at the present day is 3½ millions. If we include those born here, we should scarcely exaggerate, if we state the German population to be 12 millions, or one-fifth of the entire community. It is not surprising, therefore, that they have exerted a great influence on the country "without any special effort on their part to make it felt. The bright example of cheerfulness, thrift and intregity they set cannot be lost. The renowned American Scholar, Andrew E. White, for many years embassador at Berlin, writes: "It has been estimated that the United States will soon have 100 millions inhabitants. The national characteristics will be German thoroughness, steadiness and loyalty combined with true celtic ideality. We are now in the habit of speaking of England as the mother country, but soon the majority of us will look on Germany as such and we shall be able to think of her without bitterness, as having caused neither injustice nor war.

State Secretary Ernest G. Timme of Wisconsin made the

following answer when asked why the German is fit to make a good American citizen: simply because all the qualities for making one are inborn with him. The integrity, straight forwardness, trustworthyness and enthusiasm of the German, cannot be surpassed by anyone. He loves the country that sustains him and is always ready to protect it. Its honor and well being are dear to him as his own. He acknowledges everyone's right to think and act for himself and treats all with equal courtesy. But he jealously guards his own rights and privileges, broking no interference. Hospitality is a national characteristic as are industry, perseverance, shrewdness and economy. We have all seen how intent he is on making a home for himself—and rich or poor, he generally succeeds. Therefore a German boy is always welcome in the land." That the Germans have made very rapid progress in all branches of industry and art, will be seen by the new official "blue book." Among those who have made their mark are Henry Helgard and Claus Spreckels, German civil engineers; W. Roebling, the builder of the Brooklyn bridge and Adolph Sutro the great Tunnel builder. Among musicians Balatka, Damrosch, Bergmann and Thomas; among artists Bierstadt, Marr, Koehler and others; names which are as well known in Europe as America. In every city of the union, we find Germans at the head of flourishing industrial undertakings.

The German business man enjoys unlimited confidence, for unlike his American brother he is not fool-hardy in his speculations. Business does not occupy his full time. He takes pleasure in his possessions, but he does not "live to gain," but rather "gains to live." German family life has been held up as a model of peace and happiness; the German Kindergarten has found universal favor, and even the German Christmas tree is now largely introduced into anglo american families.

We have already seen by the way in which he cast off the yoke of England and fought against slavery, how thoroughly the German is untried with a love of Freedom. The spirit of Freedom will never be shaken; pedantic fanatics may strive in vain against time honored German customs with this cry of Prohibition and their their laws against the German language. In times of peace and times of death and times of plenty, the German-Americans have shown themselves busy as bees, brave as lions, and ever faithful in the discharge of their duty. They have therefore earned the privilege to resent any restriction of their rights on the ground that they are "not strangers in this land."

* * *

And now celebrate your "German Day" German-Americans! Think with pride of the deeds of your forfathers; contemplate the present with satisfaction and awake the future with hope! You have made yourselves as you are, try and become what, with self confidence, you may be! And strive to render Germandom in America a fitting descendent of the Fatherland.

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